

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

#### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated or purified gene coding for either one of the following proteins (a) or (b):

(a) a protein consisting of the amino acid sequence ~~shown in~~ of SEQ ID NO: 2; or

(b) a protein consisting of an amino acid sequence wherein said amino acid sequence corresponds to SEQ ID NO: 2 and is obtained by deletion, substitution or addition of one or more 1 to 10 amino acids in SEQ. ID. NO.:2 SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein the amino acid at position 75 after deletion, substitution or addition of 1 to 10 amino acids in SEQ ID NO: 2 is methionine, and wherein said protein has scytalone dehydratase activity in the presence of a scytalone dehydratase inhibitor.

2. (Previously Presented) The gene according to claim 1, wherein the scytalone dehydratase inhibitor inhibits the dehydration reaction from scytalone to 1,3,8-trihydroxynaphtalene in a melanin biosynthesis pathway.

3. (Previously Presented) The gene according to claim 1, wherein the scytalone dehydratase inhibitor is carpropamid.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) A recombinant vector comprising a gene for either one of the following proteins (a) or (b):

(a) a protein consisting of the amino acid sequence ~~shown in~~ of SEQ ID NO:2; or

(b) a protein consisting of an amino acid sequence wherein said amino acid sequence corresponds to SEQ ID NO: 2 and is obtained by deletion, substitution or addition of ~~one or more~~ 1 to 10 amino acids in ~~SEQ. ID. NO.:2~~ SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein the amino acid at position 75 after deletion, substitution or addition of 1 to 10 amino acids in SEQ ID NO: 2 is methionine, and wherein said protein has scytalone dehydratase activity in the presence of a scytalone dehydratase inhibitor.

6. (Previously Presented) A transformant obtained by transformation with the recombinant vector of claim 5.

7. (Withdrawn) A method for assessing sensitivity of a rice blast fungus to a scytalone dehydratase inhibitor, comprising the steps of:

(a) identifying an amino acid in an amino acid sequence of scytalone dehydratase in a subject rice blast fungus, which corresponds to valine at position 75 in the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 4; and

(b) assessing sensitivity of the subject rice blast fungus to the scytalone dehydratase inhibitor based on the results of step (a).

8. (Withdrawn) A method for assessing sensitivity according to claim 7, wherein when the amino acid identified in step (a) is methionine, the sensitivity of the subject rice blast fungus to the scytalone dehydratase inhibitor is assessed to be lower than that of a wild-type rice blast fungus in step (b).

9. – 11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) An isolated or purified gene coding for a protein comprising [[of]] the amino acid sequence ~~shown in~~ of SEQ ID NO:2.

13. (Previously Presented) The isolated or purified gene of claim 12, wherein the protein consists of SEQ ID NO:2.

14. – 16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) A recombinant vector comprising a gene coding for a protein comprising [[of]] the amino acid sequence ~~shown in~~ of ~~SEQ. ID. NO.:2~~ SEQ ID NO: 2.

18. (Previously Presented) A transformant obtained by transformation with the recombinant vector of claim 17.

19. (Currently Amended) An isolated or purified gene coding for a protein consisting of an amino acid sequence wherein said amino acid sequence corresponds to SEQ ID NO: 2 and is obtained by deletion, substitution or addition of 1-[[30]] 10 amino acids in SEQ. ID. NO.:2 SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein the amino acid at position 75 after deletion, substitution or addition of 1 to 10 amino acids in SEQ ID NO: 2 is methionine, and wherein said protein has scytalone dehydratase activity in the presence of a scytalone dehydratase inhibitor.

20. – 21. (Cancelled).